



## Coon Rapids Business Spotlight

### **Something Sweet by Maddie Lu - Success at 350 degrees**

Maddie Carlos didn't spend much time in the kitchen as a kid. Cooking and baking wasn't even on her radar, but now, at the age of 22, Maddie owns a successful bakery in Coon Rapids, called Something Sweet by Maddie Lu.

"When you're in this industry, people have experience for years and years and I've really only been baking for a couple of years now. So it's a crazy experience, but I love it and I learn all the time. It's great," says Maddie.

After baking some cupcakes for a friend's birthday in high school, people took notice of Maddie's work. After posting photos of her products on social media, the orders started pouring in. When Maddie outgrew her parent's kitchen, a dream was born. Something Sweet by Maddie Lu opened its doors in May of 2015. The partnership between Maddie and her mom, Laurie, combines baking knowledge with business sense and hometown pride.

"This really all started with friends and family supporting us in the community, and so we wanted to stay close to home and this was the perfect place," says Laurie.

Maddie graduated from Le Cordon Bleu and spent time as an intern baking in Disney World at Boardwalk Bakery. Recently, Maddie was featured on Food Network's Holiday Baking Championships, where she competed against some of the country's best chefs.

"Being on Food Network was an amazing experience. I learned a lot about myself and I got to meet a bunch of amazing people," Maddie says.

The future is bright for Something Sweet by Maddie Lu. Maddie hopes to eventually expand her business into a second location and take her sweet treats on the road.

"We have talked about starting a food truck with my family, and I think it would be awesome to take my desserts elsewhere instead of being in one specific location."

### **Quick Facts:**

Located at 12772 Riverdale Blvd.

Maddie attended the University of Minnesota-Duluth for one semester before leaving to attend culinary school.

Maddie doesn't and won't cook.



Maddie Carlos shows off her creations.





Coon Rapids Business Spotlight – Winter 2017